



Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DEBORAH R. GILG
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

**KANSAS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES**

August 26, 2011

Contact: Jan Sharp, Criminal Chief
402-661-3700

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that Latisha Franklin, 34, of Merriam, Kansas, was sentenced on August 26, 2011, to five years of probation by Senior United States District Judge Lyle E. Strom for her conviction on two counts of making false statements to government agencies. As a part of her probation, Franklin will be required to serve six months on home confinement. Franklin was further ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$64,744.50.

Between 2004 and 2006, Franklin resided in Omaha, Nebraska. In 2004 she made an application to the Douglas County Housing Authority for housing benefits under a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program. As part of the application process, Franklin was required to list all persons residing in her household and the income of all such persons. After the initial application, Franklin was required to provide annual recertifications providing the same types of information. The forms submitted by Franklin failed to list her significant other as a resident of her household and further failed to list his income. Due to her failure to properly report, Franklin received \$23,426 in benefits she was not entitled to receive.

Franklin also made an application for food stamps and other benefits through the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. The Nebraska Health and Human Services System administers the food stamp program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As with the housing benefits, Franklin was required to report the names of all persons residing in her household and she was required to list the income of such persons. After her initial application was approved, Franklin was required to re-certify her eligibility every six months. Franklin failed to report her significant other as a member of her household and she further failed to list his income. Due to her failure to properly report, Franklin received \$43,948 in benefits she was not entitled to receive. \$2,633.50 of that amount had been recovered prior to sentencing through an offset made by the IRS against her 2009 and 2010 income tax refunds, leaving a balance due of \$41,314.50.

This case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Fraud Investigation Unit.

###